

Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

## Pharmacy technician regulation update

UK Clinical Pharmacy Technician Network, June 15 2007

Janet Flint  
Head of Support Staff Regulation  
RPSGB

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## Pharmacy technician regulation update

- Voluntary registration of pharmacy technicians commenced in January 2005
- Statutory powers will be granted to the Society via an Order under Section 60 of the 1999 Health Act.

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## Pharmacy technician regulation: where we are now

- Public consultation on draft legislation April – June 2006.
- Laid before parliament January 2007
- “Made” on February 7.



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## Pharmacy technician regulation: what's next?

- Provisions relating to pharmacy technicians are on hold while an amending Order is sought bringing in Scottish pharmacy technicians. Implementation expected end of 2007



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## Register of pharmacy technicians: statistics

Count of Registered Technicians by gender, extent of employment and GB Country

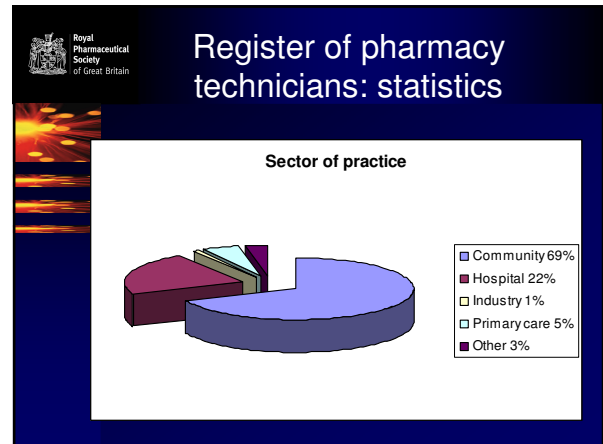
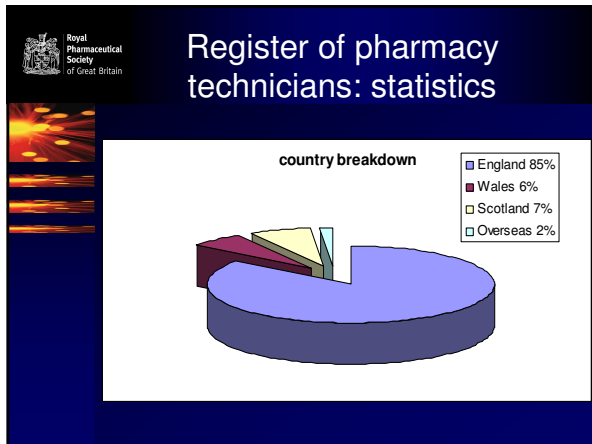
	Female			Male			Total
	Non Practising	Practising	Total	Non Practising	Practising	Total	
	61	5,200	5,261	7	314	321	5,582
England	50	4,418	4,468	7	279	286	4,754
Overseas	4	70	74	0	5	5	79
Scotland	3	377	380	0	17	17	397
Wales	4	335	339	0	13	13	352

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## Register of pharmacy technicians: statistics

Count of Registered Technicians by gender and last known employment

	Female			Male			Total
	Non Practising	Practising	Total	Non Practising	Practising	Total	
	51	5,200	5,251	7	314	321	5,582
	14	823	837	4	52	56	893
Community	22	3,092	3,114	1	153	154	3,268
Hospital	21	914	935	2	75	77	1,012
Industry	1	43	44	0	4	4	48
Not Known	1	22	23	0	1	1	24
Other	1	52	53	0	10	10	63
Primary Care	1	228	229	0	16	16	245
Teaching	0	21	21	0	0	0	21
Wholesale	0	5	5	0	3	3	8



- ## Regulatory framework for pharmacy technicians -
- Protection of title
  - Registration
  - CPD
  - Setting standards for Education & Training
  - Code of Ethics
  - Fitness to practise

- ## What regulation means for technicians: Protection of title
- “Registered Pharmacy Technician” and “Pharmacy Technician” will become protected titles.
  - The first is likely to take effect immediately the Order comes in to force. The second will take effect at the end of the transitional period, likely to be two years after the commencement of statutory registration.

- ## Registration & CPD
- The Order will give the Society powers to hold 2 registers, the Register of Pharmacists and the Register of Pharmacy Technicians
  - Each register will be divided into two parts, practising and non-practising.
  - statutory framework for mandatory continuing professional development for those on the practising part of the register

## CPD recording system

CPD recording system is the same for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians

## Education and training

Under the new legislation RPSGB will have to

- Approve qualifications
- Accredit courses
- Define requirements for those seeking restoration to the registers

## Education and training

In addition the Society will be able to

- Approve course providers
- Approve training premises
- Define assessment arrangements e.g.
  - types of assessment, how many and at what stage
  - minimum and maximum number of times that candidates may attempt assessments
- Set minimum and maximum periods for completion of education/ training/ experience
- Define specialisations requiring annotation of the register

## Education and training

- Long-term educational requirement for registration is
  - Pharmacy Services S/NVQ level 3 which includes accredited underpinning knowledge programme meeting technical certificate requirements

## Education and training

- BTEC National Certificate in Pharmacy Services and City & Guilds Pharmacy Services level 3 VRQ have been accredited by QCA as technical certificates
- Buttercups level 3 underpinning knowledge programme has been accredited by the RPSGB – new accreditation procedures reflect those in place for the MPharm

## Code of ethics

- New Code of Ethics for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians was approved by the Council at the end of March. Will be published in MEP and implemented in August.
- Separate supporting guidance will be produced where needed.

## What regulation means for technicians: Code of ethics and indemnity arrangements

- The legislation will make it a legal requirement for registrants to have adequate and appropriate indemnity arrangements in place
- Guidance on what is considered to be “adequate and appropriate” will be issued in due course

## Fitness to practise

- Single set of procedures applying to both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians
- Wide range of FTP sanctions, including removal from register, suspension and conditions on continued registration
- Powers to investigate allegations of
  - misconduct
  - deficient professional performance and
  - health impairments

## What regulation means for technicians: Representation

- From May 2005 there have been two places for pharmacy technicians on the RPSGB Council elected by registered pharmacy technicians
- Technicians have been appointed to four new statutory committees
  - Investigating
  - Disciplinary
  - Health
  - Registration appeals
- There is a place for a pharmacy technician on each of the two national pharmacy boards for England and Wales
- Five pharmacy technicians have been appointed to the Society's new Support Staff Advisory Group

## The future: General Pharmaceutical Council ?

- Government White Paper *Trust, Assurance and Safety: The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century*, published February 21
- Outlines Government intention to establish a General Pharmaceutical Council (GPharmC) to regulate the pharmacy profession (both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians).
- Role of RPSGB to be re-defined. Carter working party recommendations are being considered by the health minister, Lord Hunt.

## Sources of further information

### RPSGB Website:

[www.rpsgb.org.uk/acareerinpharmacy/pharmacysupportstaff/](http://www.rpsgb.org.uk/acareerinpharmacy/pharmacysupportstaff/)

### CPD website:

[www.uptodate.org.uk](http://www.uptodate.org.uk)

### E-mail:

CPD@rpsgb.org

pharmacytechnician@rpsgb.org

Telephone: 020 7572 2610